

36060. MEIBOMIA HIRTA (Guill. and Per.) Kuntze.*(Desmodium hirtum* Guill. and Per.)

From Kyimbila, German East Africa. Presented by Mr. Ad. Stolz. Received August 14, 1913.

"This plant has the great recommendation that one can take rooted cuttings of the plant, so that for propagation one does not need the long wait for seed, and with large 1 to 1½ meter cuttings one comes much more quickly to the desired end than with small seedlings. Crop plants, such as coffee, tea, rubber, lianas, cedars, etc., have taken a significant fresh appearance after having *D. hirtum* planted between them. This shows itself especially on this year's fresh powerful shoots of the plants; hence, the fertilizing value of this legume must be significant. It fertilizes not only other plants, but itself, for where after a space of 12 months a spindling plant wanders through the soil, it rises itself in the following year to an entirely different luxurious plant. On poor soils the shoots lie flat on the ground, reaching a height of 2 to 5 centimeters. On the other hand, on good soil the shoots in the first year attain a height of 30 centimeters. I have observed it at elevations of 500 to 1,600 meters above sea level. *D. hirtum* is also not to be underrated as forage, for asses and sheep eagerly eat the shoots. It is indeed a typical meadow plant, with scanty growth and runner formation between the high-grass haulms. Here I found it with other legumes, of which our meadows produce enough. I made a test of all the species, of which *D. hirtum* turned out to be the best, for on loosened soil the plant could show its possibilities.

Cultivation.—The seed should be sown broadcast in a well-prepared seed bed, which must, above all, be kept moist, in order that the seed shall not dry out and that the young plants shall grow more quickly; since where the plants stand too closely together it is necessary to thin them to 10 centimeters, it is well, as soon as the runners reach a length of 10 to 20 centimeters, to plant the young plants in groups one-half by 1 meter or 1 by 1 meter in well-loosened soil. The looser and better the soil is so much the quicker *D. hirtum* develops, and puts forth shoots during the year from 1 to 1½ meters long, which quickly root in loose soil and furnish cuttings for transplanting. In growing from seed it is worth while, above all, to grow quickly good strong runners, which as soon as they have rooted should be planted in the rainy season, and easily increase. In order to further the growth, the land must above all be kept clean of weeds. Later the long shoots hinder the growth of weeds. After seed production the plant dies down almost two-thirds; from the rootstock and the still living shoots spring forth runners, which grow over the dead parts and reach a height of from 2 to 30 centimeters." (*Stolz.*)

36061. LANSIUM DOMESTICUM Jack.**Duku.**

From Buitenzorg, Java. Presented by the director, Department of Agriculture. Received August 14, 1913.

See S. P. I. No. 35906 for previous introduction.

36062. LEUCADENDRON REPENS L.**Sugar bush.***(Protea mellifera* Thunb.)

From South Rhodesia, Africa. Received from Mr. G. P. Rixford, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, who secured them from Mr. George T. Ruddock, San Francisco, Cal. Received August 11, 1913

"*Veldt plant.* A shrub of from 4 to 6 feet high. Before opening, the bud resembles a globe artichoke. Flowers white; beautiful for parks." (*Rixford.*)

"A glabrous shrub or small tree, having narrowly lanceolate and rather blunt leaves, 3 to 5 inches long, one-third inch wide above, tapering gradually to the base. Head 4 inches long, cup shaped, 3 inches wide, red and pretty; the inner bracts rather longer